

# Highlights

This issue of the *Natural Gas Monthly* (NGM) contains estimates of natural gas data through October 2003 for many data series at the national level. National-level natural gas prices are available through October 2003. State-level data generally are available through October 2003, although underground storage data are available through November 2003.

Recent analyses of the natural gas industry are available on the EIA web site, [www.eia.doe.gov](http://www.eia.doe.gov), under "Featured Topics" to the right side of the home page. The first two reports listed below are updated regularly. These reports are:

- *Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report* -- a weekly report containing estimates of natural gas in underground storage for the United States and three regions of the United States released each Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the EIA Web site, except for certain weeks with Federal holidays. The report, first released on May 9, 2002, contains estimates of storage for the current and prior

week and comparisons to previous periods. Links are provided to papers describing survey Form EIA-912, "Weekly Underground Natural Gas Survey," and the estimation methodology.

- *Natural Gas Weekly Update* -- a current analysis of the industry each week, including information on natural gas spot and futures prices and storage activities. This page also provides links to numerous other EIA sites dealing with natural gas.
- *Short-Term Energy Outlook* -- projections of energy consumption, supply, and price by type of fuel, including natural gas, for the next 18 months.

Other natural gas data and analyses may be found through the "Natural Gas" section of EIA's web site. In the center section of the home page, the user should place the cursor on "By Fuel," then click on "Natural Gas" in the drop-down menu.

## Annual Adjustment of Monthly Data

This issue of the *Natural Gas Monthly* contains revisions to many of the 2002 monthly data series. These data series have been revised so that their totals for the 12 months of the year agree with the annual totals shown in the *Natural Gas Annual 2002*. The data series that were adjusted to annual totals are: natural gas production, wellhead prices, underground storage injections and withdrawals, consumption and consumer prices.

The revisions are the result of an adjustment process that is performed each year when data received from an annual census of respondents become available. Before the process begins, all revisions and corrections that had been received throughout the year are included in the monthly base figures. Then the annual adjustment process aligns the monthly estimates for sectoral consumption, sectoral prices, and underground storage injections and withdrawals, which had been developed using monthly survey information, to agree with the annual summaries of data reported on the Form EIA-176, "Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition," and published in the *Natural Gas Annual 2002*. Natural gas production and wellhead prices are also revised using the best information obtained from producing States and the U.S. Minerals Management Service.

Appendices A (Explanatory Notes), B (Data Sources), and C (Statistical Considerations) of this publication provide further information about data sources, estimation procedures, annual adjustments, and sample design. These appendices may be helpful in evaluating the monthly data.